

7 February 1956

A/B, VII, 9, 5

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Exploration of Potent Plant Resources in the Caribbean Region

The assignment had a four-fold purpose, namely:

1. To collect specific plant products and other promising drugs in sufficient bulk for study, appraisal and exploitation.
2. To gain, through personal contact with this region, the desired orientation concerning the natural drug resources, the institutions and personnel engaged in developing or testing them, and individuals especially familiar with native potent plants and medicines.
3. To explore every opportunity to enrich our knowledge of hidden treasures in potent plant resources, either native or introduced, to learn of their availability, their place of growth and the season of maturity, and to record their reported or proven value.
4. To collect published data, manuscripts, lists and notes dealing with potent plant resources found in the Caribbean and neighboring regions.

The following twelve countries or regions were visited and explored as thoroughly as time permitted: Puerto Rico, Trinidad, Tobago, Martinique, Dominica, Guadalupe, St. Thomas, and the Water Isle of the Virgin Islands, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, and Cuba. In addition, personal inquiries were made in Miami in contact with Government officials engaged in plant introduction, in the [redacted] with staff members active in the study of plants and plant products. A chart of the area explored is attached. C

The results were most gratifying, inasmuch as provisions made for the trip, the season selected, and the weather were very favorable for observation and collection, and the fullest cooperation was obtained from all officials and other individuals contacted.

To assure the desired complete success of the exploration, the following recommendations are respectfully suggested.

[redacted]

1. Evaluation of the most promising potent agents collected, and exploitation where warranted.
2. The conclusion of cooperative agreements such as those with the

[REDACTED]

3. To establish or set aside token-cooperative funds to pay the expenses incurred for labor in growing, collection and transportation.
4. To maintain the contacts made and develop new ones for the continued exploration of additional natural potent resources, including especially the mushrooms and other fungi, having psychogenic properties. Particularly promising sources for further study are the native Carib ceremonial drugs of Dominica and the domestic cerebral drugs of the Virgin Islands and Haiti.
5. To arrange for adequate cover for field contacts, such as the functioning as a consultant for the [REDACTED] or the [REDACTED] with the continued cooperation of [REDACTED]

Attachments:

- I. Institutions and Personnel Contacted
- II. Caribbean Collections, 16 Dec 54 - 25 Jan 55
- IIIa Potential Sources of Potent Plant Products
- IIIb Potential Sources of Potent Fungal Products
- IV. Caribbean Collections, 16 Dec 54 - 25 Jan 55

Distribution:

Orig [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]